



# *Proclamation* *Presented*

## **In Recognition of Watumull Brothers, Ltd. Celebration of 100 Years of Business in Hawai'i**

**WHEREAS**, J. Watumull and a business partner in Manila decided to travel to Hawai'i to explore business opportunities when the United State military left the Philippines to set up base in the Hawaiian Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, J. Watumull and his younger brother, G.J. Watumull, both arrived in Hawai'i in 1915; G.J. Watumull stayed in Honolulu to run the stores opened by the family, while J. Watumull traveled throughout the Orient looking for merchandise to sell to military personnel back in the islands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Watumull operation grew as G.J. Watumull married an American woman named Ellen, and, in 1935, older brother, Rama, arrived in Hawai'i to help the family open several retail stores; and

**WHEREAS**, the Watumulls, when the United States entered World War II in 1941, could not obtain merchandise from the Orient, so they improvised and acquired goods from other places; business boomed as the military personnel started making purchases from the brothers; the Watumulls started with retail stores selling women's lingerie and hosiery, clothing for children, and hand-painted Japanese silks for the tourists; and

**WHEREAS**, the Watumulls discovered that there was a significant market for local Hawaiian clothing because most American chain stores were not offering Hawaiian clothing; using their business savvy, they opened approximately 35 stores in Honolulu, selling Hawaiian clothing and merchandise; and

**WHEREAS**, the Watumull legacy of outstanding leadership and entrepreneurship continued with J. Watumull's son, Gulab; after completing studies at the University of Bombay, Gulab came to Hawai'i to help run the family business; in 1953, Gulab and his bride, Indru, headed up a newly separated retail business, called Watumull Brothers, Ltd.; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulab and Indru Watumull raised their family in Hawai'i and are prominent members of our community, they are respected and admired for their business success and philanthropic endeavors; led by next generation of Watumulls, sons J.D. and Vic, and daughter Jojo, the Watumull business empire continues to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, the Watumull name is synonymous with charitable giving, as family members have donated their time and money to the Honolulu Museum of Art, American Cancer Society Hawai'i, Diamond Head Theatre, Honolulu Symphony, Hawai'i International Film Festival, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, and other causes and organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulab and Indru Watumull will be commemorating 100 years of Watumull Brothers, Ltd. doing business in Hawai'i at a celebration on April 7, 2014, at the Waialae Country Club;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2014, as**

## **"WATUMULL BROTHERS, LTD. DAY"**

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in congratulating the Watumull family for achieving 100 years of success in Hawai'i, greatly contributing to our community.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of April 2014.



**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor, State of Hawai'i



**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i